

**From:** Michael Sacco  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/3/01 11:36pm  
**Subject:** College Student

Hi. I would just like to let you know that I use RedHat Linux on my computer, and use the office programs for my work at school. I feel that linux would be great in the classrooms. First off, the Star Office suite offers productivity programs of the same quality as Microsoft. Also, they are fully compatible, by exporting file formats into Microsoft Format. Second, linux is a great learning tool of the computer, seeing as how it's source code is available for perusal by everybody. What better way to understand how an operating system is built than to look at the programming code? With Microsoft, you can't see the code, so the operating system is a mystery. I do not understand how that can teach kids. Third, linux has become a standard desktop for millions of people worldwide. The strides in ease of use have been phenomenal. A look at [www.kde.org](http://www.kde.org) will show you the effort made to make the operating system easy to use. Fourth, almost all software for linux is free! Almost all software for windows is not! By placing Windows OS on the computers, the schools will have no choice but to put a significant amount of money into them at a later date. Linux distributions offer their latest versions free for all. No limitations implemented. Fifth, since Linux source code is available to all, it is frequently being fixed and updated. With Windows, only employees get to browse the source code, so mistakes and improvements take much longer to fix. Using Windows on these computers simply allows Microsoft to continue its monopoly. However, using Linux gives these children the same working knowledge and use as Windows does, only the benefits will outlast the licenses of the Windows ball and chain. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Michael A. Sacco